

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
9201 Corbould Street, Chilliwack BC V2P 4A6

Contact: Ann Goudswaard, Marketing Manager
T: 604.392.8000, ext.103
E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca
W: www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca



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High Resolution photo: [TheSecretGarden dancers_large.jpg](#)

Photo Description: Principal Dancer Andrea Bayne in yellow with dancer Risa Kobayashi and Robb Beresford.

Photo Credit: Derek Ford Photography

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATE EASTER IN *THE SECRET GARDEN!*

CHILLIWACK, BC— *The Secret Garden* springs to life as Ballet Victoria brings the family classic to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on **March 30** in a production that will enrich the senses and warm the heart, the perfect show for the Easter holiday. This timeless tale follows the story of an unruly young orphan girl who joins her brooding uncle and his ailing son at their dark and dreary Victorian home. It's not long before the adventurous young girl uncovers a hidden magical garden and the key to unlocking their listless hearts. Flourishing with the hopeful spirit of spring rejuvenation, this one act Ballet accentuates the power of beauty to inspire, delight and brighten lives. Fiercely danced to the inspiring music of Joseph Haydn trios, the story takes your heart on a journey of hope and renewal, the perfect story to welcome spring and celebrate Easter.

Exceptional dancers from **Ballet Victoria** celebrate the coming of spring with four passionate classical ballets in this fantastic show ***The Secret Garden and Other Works***. Accompanied by live music, the delightful ***Secret Garden*** follows the beautiful “**Le Corsaire**” and two premiere works - “**Notiflux**” by Bruce Monk and “**White Waltz**” by the celebrated choreographer Joe Laughlin.

The second half of the program blossoms with the inspiring ballet, ***The Secret Garden***, choreographed by Artistic Director Paul Destrooper. Embellished with a concert pianist and ensemble, they will perform the Haydn trio score live in this portrayal of a young girl bringing light and life to a dark and unhappy place. Orphan Mary, described as “sour faced” and “spoilt” becomes more aware of her own personality when confronted with the selfish tantrums of her feeble cousin Colin. The story examines the struggle between common sense and the accepted wisdom of the day. Servants and father appear to do more harm than good when they just accept false ideas coming from the family doctor without question. The children, by their own observations, and strengthened by the rationality of Mary’s maidservant’s younger brother Dickon, break free of the imposed regime and triumph in the end, reinforcing the belief that positive thinking can bring about psychological and physical healing. Both children are very affected by the simple kindness and understanding of Dickon, who lives a happy life despite being poor and emphasizes the simple benefits of fresh air, exercise and being at one with nature, from this they learn how to be kind. ***The Secret Garden*** is as uplifting as it is visually beautiful, a heart-warming story that will fill your spirit with joy.

Opening the performance is an excerpt from the humorous and poignant “**Le Corsaire**”, the story of a beautiful woman captured by the pirate Corsaire, who then falls in love with the particularly enchanting girl. The last section of this piece is the **Pas d' Esclave** - a famous and exacting pas de trois performed all across the globe.

Next on the program is the “**Noctilux**” inspired by the movement of Northern lights in the sky and choreographed by the **Royal Winnipeg Ballet’s** Bruce Monk. This haunting pas de deux is accompanied by Canada’s brilliant concert pianist **Sarah Hagen**, who will perform the Debussy score live.

Audience members will then enjoy a new work “**White Waltz**” created by Vancouver based and internationally acclaimed choreographer Joe Laughlin. He built the piece around the anticipation of the first snowfall, and set it to Strauss' Blue Danube and one of Chopin’s Nocturnes.

Ballet Victoria is Vancouver Island’s premier professional ballet company, an innovative ballet troupe that has been staging routines that stir the imagination with movement for the past ten years. Making its mark on the local and international dance scene with high caliber performances of original and classical repertoire, **Ballet Victoria** is proud to produce four main-stage productions and tour across BC every season. Developing a reputation for fun and narrative contemporary choreography, the Company’s artistic director **Paul Destrooper** strives to bring a new polished technique and artistry to ballet adding a mix of humour and emotional depth that will

reaches audiences of all ages and cultures. This combination has won over patrons at home in Victoria, across BC, and as far away as Morioka, Japan.

The Ballet Company has captured the young rising dance star, **Matthew Cluff**, who recently arrived in back in British Columbia by way of the prestigious San Francisco Ballet School. **Ballet Victoria** presents this brilliant young dancer's debut in ***The Secret Garden and Other Works***, thrilling the young performer, who has been commended for matching high energy and spirited enthusiasm with exquisite technique.

An inspirational experience, this first-class professional ballet company performs beautifully in ***The Secret Garden and Other Works***, a delightful dance presentation you won't want to miss this Easter! Tickets are \$30 for Adults, \$27 for Seniors, and \$25 for Students. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW(7469) for more information.

The Secret Garden is generously sponsored by Best Western, The Chilliwack Progress, Sutton Showplace Realty, Nestle Water Canada, The City of Chilliwack, British Columbia Arts Council, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Additional Information

Ballet Victoria uses narrative, humour, depth, and classical and popular cultural references to create works that attract a diverse audience. Artistic Director Paul Destrooper choreographs to well-known classical and popular music in ways that allow the dancer's movements to tell a story and gives audiences a familiar connection to each show.

Founded in 2002, Ballet Victoria has transformed over the last three years into a first-class professional arts organization. Under the artistic direction of **Paul Destrooper**, the company has become a cultural asset to Victoria and the province, receiving accolades in national and international media. Destrooper has created works, taught and coached for professional companies and schools including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Northwest Professional Dance Project, Ballet Kelowna, Ballet BC and the Okanagan Summer Dance Intensive. Destrooper's choreography focuses on ballet as an "Art of Light" – shaping light with movement to reflect musicality and trigger emotion.

Paul Destrooper, artistic director & choreographer

Paul became the Artistic Director of Ballet Victoria in September 2007. Every season he creates new works to add to the Canadian repertoire and stimulate audiences in new ways, breaking down stereotypes about ballet by infusing dramatics, varying styles, humour, and creating visual fluidity through his unique approach to choreography and technique that enhances the dancers' abilities to express the emotional content in their work. The work concentrates on shaping the movement using the whole body in a way that it captures light with little interruption to its flow. We call it the art of light. Paul has choreographed over twentyfive works and three full-length ballets. His works have garnered glowing reviews in both Canada and the USA.

[Ballet Victoria's website](#)

[Sarah Hagen's website](#)

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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T: 604.392.8000, ext. 103

E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca

Contact the Centre Box Office in person

(Mon-Fri, 9:30am-9:00pm, Sat & Sun, 9:30am-5:00pm)

by phone at 604.391.SHOW(7469)

or online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Since opening the Chilliwack Cultural Centre September 2010, over 44,800 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$750,000. The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society, whom oversees operation on behalf of the City of Chilliwack, are pleased to be on target for their initial projected budget and overall use projections for the Centre.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre

- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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